

Math professor to present novel way of teaching calculus curriculum

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Joseph Petrillo, professor of mathematics at Alfred University (AU), will present “The Alfred University Calculus Initiative” as part of the University’s ongoing Bergren Forum series. His lecture will take place on Thursday, Feb. 28 at 12:10 p.m. in Nevins Theatre, Powell Campus Center. The event is free and open to the public.

Petrillo will discuss the Alfred University Calculus Initiative (AUCI), which combines a new, first-year calculus curriculum with classroom transformation, video lessons, and Web-based homework and implementation, from a pedagogical perspective. Funded by the National Science Foundation, AUCI may inspire teachers and professors in other disciplines to implement similar methods in their own classrooms.

Petrillo earned a bachelor of science degree in mathematics, with a minor in physics, from Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, PA. He then continued his education and earned a master of arts degree and Ph.D. in mathematics from Binghamton University. He is a two-time recipient of AU’s Joseph Kruson Trust Fund Award for Excellence in Teaching and has been featured in numerous publications, including the New York State Mathematics Teachers’ Journal, the College Mathematics Journal, and the Journal of Algebra.

The Bergren Forum, sponsored by the Alfred University Division of Human Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, meets Thursdays during each academic semester at the University. Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch; coffee and tea will be available.